

Bradley Says Red Policies Weaken West

Iceland's Opposition To U. S. Troops Cited As an Example

By John G. Norris
Staff Reporter

Gen. Omar N. Bradley warned that Russia's new peace "propaganda," backed by its growing military might, already has weakened the West.

Bradley, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, cited Iceland's recent move to oust American troops as "proof" that the Soviet's new approach to the world is "beginning to have an effect" on the Western alliance.

It also must be recognized, Bradley told a Senate subcommittee, that Russia may use her mounting military power to the same end. He agreed with a Senator that the Soviet Union is getting into a position to "blackmail" our European allies by threatening use of new ballistic missiles or her army against them.

Bradley and Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, another retired leader of American forces in World War II, were the first witnesses called before a long-heralded Senate investigation into the adequacy of American air power.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), who heads the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee making the investigation, and Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), a member of the group, both have warned that Russia may be overtaking the United States in air power. They have charged that Administration desires to balance the budget are responsible for this situation.

Neither Bradley nor Smith gave evidence on this point yesterday. Both said they were not qualified to comment on the strength of the existing Air Force, as they had been retired too long. But they agreed that they and other United States officials had underestimated Soviet air-atomic power progress in postwar days.

"Beetle," Smith, who was President Eisenhower's chief of staff in World War II and later his Under Secretary of State, told the Senators it would be "disastrous" for the United States to lose air superiority to Russia.

But he stressed that the Nation's "total strength"—not air power alone—is the determining factor in deterring war.

"Military strength at any time," Smith declared, depends upon "force in being," and in the long run, the ability to keep ahead or at least abreast of any enemy.

He said he understood that both the Army and Navy have been making "tremendous progress" in new arms. A recent "assessment of the new, scientific Navy" he has just read, said Smith, suggests that it may be of "transcendental importance" in delivering new weapons.

Bradley declared that "air power has become predominant" both as a deterrent to war and as the "devastating force to destroy the enemy" if it comes. We must also be prepared, he added, to "deal with long-range rockets capable of ravaging our cities from land bases and surfaced submarines."

Stressing the importance of having "air power in being," Bradley said:

"I thoroughly believe that if a third world war starts, it will start with an attack on the United States . . . very much like the last war started at Pearl Harbor."

Sen. Herman Walker (R-Idaho) asked Bradley for comment on the recent demand of Iceland that the United States remove its forces from that NATO country.

"I am concerned from two points of view," said Bradley. "It knocks out a strategic air base, from which we could launch a retaliatory attack, and a base for defense against attack. Also, I am very much concerned at this proof that Russian propaganda is having an effect on the NATO alliance."

Symington opened the hearings with a statement promising a "thorough and orderly inquiry" aimed at getting "all

pertinent information available" as to Communist and United States air power positions. It will go into all phases, he said including nuclear weapons, aircraft, missiles, bases, adequacy of maintenance programs and reserve strength.